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BAPTISTS

Bethel Church rebounds from Katrina

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

More than 60 people were sheltering in the fellowship hall of Bethel Church in Pearl River Association when Hurricane Katrina passed over in late August 2005 and surgically removed the roof.

"What was left of the roof was found later in Buck Branch Creek, 50 yards away," said Pastor Floyd Davis.

Needless to say, it's a day those 60 people won't soon forget. The story had a happy ending as everyone scurried to the Family Life Center next door, which miraculously escaped serious damage and played a crucial response and relief role in the surrounding community for many months after the hurricane.

The Family Life Center served as a Red Cross shelter, and members utilized it as a distribution point for food, clothing, and other essential items. At peak, the church was providing more than 350 meals per day to the surrounding community.

"It was the only useable building in a wide area," said Dena Baltimore, the church's secretary. "We cleaned it up after the storm and used it for the next 18 months. We held church services in there until we moved back into the Sanctuary on June 17 of this year.

"God provided. We hardly ran out of anything before it was replaced. You could see God's hand in all that was happening."

Most of the main church building had to be torn out to the studs after Katrina, Davis



NEW SANCTUARY — Carl Myers (left) missions director for Pearl River Association, talks with Floyd Davis (center), pastor of Bethel Church, and Dena Baltimore, church secretary, in the church's restored sanctuary. Hurricane Katrina nearly destroyed the main church building, fellowship hall, and Sunday School space so new that it had not yet been occupied. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

said. "Before the storm, there was a two-story education addition that wasn't even finished. Katrina ruined it, but now we have a full nursery, space for toddlers and preschoolers, and so much more."

"It's like we're pre-positioned to reach out to the community."

Davis and Baltimore praised the volunteers who came from across the U.S. to help restore Bethel Church. Steve Howard, the church's bivocational music minister, took on the task of supervising the reconstruction.

"Steve was phenomenal. He has a full-time job, serves as music minister, and oversaw all the building that was going on. We wouldn't be where we are without him," Davis said.

Volunteers, donated construction materials and labor, and financial gifts — including more than \$250,000 from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board — helped the church to restore itself, provided a sense of normalcy around the devastated area, and served as a beacon for the community.

Baltimore said pre-Katrina worship services usually ran about 160 people. Worship attendance currently stands at about 130, she said.

"There are about 186 seats in the Sanctuary, and it's been full on several occasions," Davis said. "There are a tremendous number of people moving into our area from farther south and from Louisiana. We're excited about that. We want to reach out to them."

"The church did what the church should do," said Carl Myers, missions director for Pearl River Association. "It sent a powerful message about Jesus to the community, through its actions."

Pearl River Association opened its conference facility at McNeil to volunteers, Myers said, housing more than 3,700 people in the first year after Katrina. "A majority worked in the association, but there were others who spread out all across the Gulf Coast," he said.

"Immediately after the storm, the church had no idea how we could return to normal, or how to pay for all that had to be done," Davis said. "The church has learned patience, and to wait on the Lord. He is in control, and the church learned to be totally dependent on Him to provide what we needed."

"Since Katrina, there has been so much tension and disarray in the lives of families. God and His people have given us the ability to reach out to those hurting families, help put them back together, and get them into church," Davis said.

"We're excited about that. We're asking the Lord to show us the way."

Henderson Point bids rejected

By William H. Perkins Jr.
Editor

The top bid for the Henderson Point property in Harrison County was rejected September 24 as insufficient by the Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"We appreciate all the bidders' interest, but we concluded that the submitted bids did not meet our expectations regarding the value of the property. In light of our responsibility to the churches of the convention, we will be exploring other options for the sale of the property at the best possible price," said Gary Richardson, chairman of the Executive Committee and pastor of North Oxford Church, Oxford.

Hurricane Katrina destroyed the MBCB-owned Gulfshore Baptist

Assembly on Henderson Point in August 2005, and messengers to the 2006 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention voted to sell the 34-acre, beachfront property.

Bids were accepted through September 21 and opened during a special meeting of the Executive Committee on September 24.

Richardson said the Executive Committee decided not to release the names of the bidders or the amount of the bids, due to the fact that the property is still on the market. "As stewards, we don't want to do anything that might adversely affect the value of the property as we move forward," he said.

For more information on the Henderson Point property, visit www.mbc.org.



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Big Alcohol takes aim at young people

Media watchers have complained for years about the alcohol industry's blatant campaign to market their products to children. Many of these media watchers have no particular religious affiliation; they just want what's best for the nation's children. From all indications, that's not what the alcohol industry wants.

The Center on Alcohol Marketing and Youth (CAMY) at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., has just released the explosive results of yet another study that proves beyond a doubt what the alcohol industry is up to.

The study, titled Youth Exposure to Alcohol Advertising on Radio, 2006, analyzed 337,602 alcohol product advertisements in 28 of the largest radio markets in the U.S. in 2006. The key findings:

- In 2006, more than a third of advertising placements for alcohol products in

28 of the largest radio markets (120,299 or 35.6%) were on programming that youth, ages 12-20, were more likely to hear on a per capita basis than adults.

- Advertisements on programming that youth were more likely to hear than adults accounted for more than half (58%) of youth exposure to alcohol advertising on the radio.

- Approximately one in twelve alcohol advertisements (27,682 or eight percent) were on programming with youth audience compositions greater than the alcohol industry's voluntary maximum of 30%, and 18 out of 143 brands placed 20% or more of their advertisements above that threshold.

THE EVE OF DISASTER



• Twenty-six brands placed more than half of their advertisements on programming that youth were more likely to hear on a per capita basis than adults.

The alcohol pushers know what they are doing. "Despite competition from iPods, instant messaging, and the Internet, radio remains a popular medium among youth," the study reports. "Ninety-one percent of teens listen to the radio weekly, while 65.5% listen to it every day. Comparing genders, 87.9% of males ages 12-17 are radio listeners, listening to an average of 11 hours and five minutes per week while 94% of females in this age group are tuned in, listening on average 14 hours per week."

One need not be a marketing executive to understand the gravity of those numbers. In the all-important youth demographic, it's a dream come true for the alcohol industry which, like the tobacco companies, must recruit new users to replace those who die from the effects of a lifetime of physical debasement from using their products.

"Although communities across the nation have made significant efforts to reduce youth access to alcohol, underage drinking remains a widespread and tragic public health problem," CAMY reports. By their senior year in high school, 45% of young people report drinking with the past 30 days, and 25% reported binge drinking of five or more drinks in a row within the past two weeks, CAMY states.

Anheuser-Busch Cos., Inc., of St. Louis, one of the largest pushers of alcoholic misery in the country, predictably dismissed the study in a statement quoted by Associated Press. "Preventing underage drinking is about preventing youth access to alcohol, not about what a teen does or doesn't hear on the radio," said company Vice-President Carol Clark.

Now, how's that for intellectual dishonesty? Clark says teens don't drink because of what they hear on the radio, while her company is a large and influential part of an industry that inarguably aims its radio advertising squarely at young people.

Well, which is it? They seem to want it both ways — but what they really want is our children. Will yours be next? Think about it.

Mississippi Baptist churches celebrate 6,950 years of service

150 years

(Organized 1858)

Arkadelphia (Lauderdale)
DeSoto (Clarke)
First, Buckatunna (Wayne)
Gum Springs (Simpson)
New Hope (Leake)
New Hope (X-tended)
Northside (Union Co.)
Rocky Point (Leake)
Rocky Springs (Yazoo)
Shiloh (Montgomery)

125 years

(Organized 1883)

Bethsaida (Neshoba)
First, Columbia (Marion)
First, Raleigh (Smith)
Gaston (Prentiss)
Gillsburg (Mississippi)
Lebanon (Benton-Tippah)
Longview (Pontotoc)
Midway (Leake)
Montrose (Jasper)
Pickens (Holmes)
Poplar Springs Drive (Lauderdale)
Rawls Springs (Lebanon)
Sabougla (Calhoun)
Sarepta (Calhoun)
Silver Springs (Pike)

Smyrna (Copiah)
Zion Hill (Copiah)
Itawamba Association

100 years

(Organized 1908)

Baxerville (Lamar)
Bay Springs (Jasper)
Bayou Talla Fellowship (Gulf Coast)
First, Beaumont (Perry)
Bethel (Lincoln)
Daleville (Lauderdale)
Eastport (Tishomingo)
Eddington (Franklin)
Eden (Yazoo)
Edna (Marion)
First, Lambert (North Delta)
Georgetown (Copiah)
Gershon (Pontotoc)
Heritage Heights (Jones)
McCarley (Carroll)
Morgan Chapel (Golden Triangle)
Pearson (Rankin)
Petal-Harvey (Lebanon)
Pine Forest (Montgomery)
Springfield (Leake)
Steep Hollow (Pearl River)
First, Tutwiler (North Central)
Union South (Cov/Jeff Davis)
Vanilla (Lawrence)
Wellman (Lincoln)

175 years

(Organized 1833)

Carrollton (Carroll)
Good Hope (Winston)
New Hope (Cov/Jeff Davis)
Wahalak (Kemper)

Persecution of religious minorities in Iraq continues

WASHINGTON (BP) — Millions of Iraqis have fled their homes in order to seek asylum in neighboring countries, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) was told at a Sept. 19 hearing.

Religious minorities, specifically the Chaldo-Assyrian Christians, Sabean Mandaeans, and Yazidis, have almost completely evacuated the country, witnesses said.

The testimonies of key leaders working for resolution of the refugee crisis were heard in the second of two hearings held by the commission about religious freedom in Iraq. The focus of this hearing was the large numbers of refugees who have flooded surrounding countries during the war in Iraq and how the U.S. should assist these people groups.

Two million Iraqis have been displaced within the borders, while 2.2 million have left the country, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"They simply don't see a way to ever go home," Ellen Sauerbrey, assistant secretary of state for population, refugees and migration, told the commission in describing the mindset of religious minorities who have sought refugee status.

Intolerance and violent attacks toward these minorities have forced them to evacuate.

"The [Iraqi] government is dysfunctional and almost irrelevant," said Judith Yaphé, Middle East specialist at the National Defense University. With the instability of the central government and lack of power and resources, Iraqis have abandoned communal tolerance and diversity for homogenous communities in an attempt to gain stability.

Multiple civil wars between the Sunni and Shi'a Islamic sects have created a complex and extremely volatile situation, Yaphé explained.

The majority of the refugees are not religious minorities but are members of these Muslim sects who have been pushed out by sectarian violence and military offensives, Sauerbrey said.

Witnesses also described refugee living conditions in temporary, rented housing. Food, shelter, and other basic necessities are difficult to get, mainly because Iraqis are unable to work without the proper visas.

"Prostitution has increased. Trauma and anxiety is widespread. Diminished assets make survival difficult," said Judy Cheng-Hopkins, UNHCR's assistant high commissioner for operations.

Efforts to aid refugees have gotten off to a slow start, admitted Sauerbrey, but she is hopeful about the next several months. "We are now moving along pretty rapidly," she said. The admission of refugees into the U.S. is set to increase dramatically in October.

The State Department also has worked to improve health and education conditions among the refugees in Syria, Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon. Funds were given to long-established, religiously based NGOs that are familiar with the area, as well as the governments of neighboring states to help with educational concerns.

"The involvement of churches is so important [to the transition of the refugees]," said Sauerbrey. Sixty-two percent of the refugees



PERSECUTION WORRIES — An Iraqi fireman collects human remains at the Buratha Shi'ite mosque following a suicide bombing last year. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom's 2007 report has Iraq on its "watch list" of countries that need monitoring because of religious freedom concerns. (Photo by Wathiq Khuzaie/Getty Images)

who have already made their way to America are Chaldo-Assyrian Christians, she testified.

The establishment of the refugees within U.S. borders is handled by six faith-based groups located throughout the country, Sauerbrey said.

"The condition of these minorities is of special interest to me," said Sen. Gordon Smith, R.-Ore., who attended the hearing. Smith believes helping these refugees is "America's moral duty" but said the country has not done enough. He has proposed leg-

islation that will increase the number of visas given to Iraqis seeking asylum in the U.S.

Dana Gruber Ladek of the International Organization for Migration agrees that a great deal more could be accomplished. "Increased funding is the best approach the U.S. can take," Ladek told the commission.

The U.S. government provided \$6 million to IOM, only a fraction of the \$86 million needed to provide food and shelter for the millions of Iraqi refugees, she said.

Mississippian selected

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Seminary administrator R. Clark Logan Jr. has been elected as vice president for business and finance with the Southern Baptist Convention's Executive Committee in Nashville, effective Oct. 15. Logan, 40, will succeed John R. (Jack) Wilkerson, who will retire Oct. 1 after 14 years in the post. Logan, a native of Bruce, has been senior vice president for institutional administration at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., since August 2004. He joined the seminary staff in 2000 as assistant director of admissions and was named director of development in January 2001. Logan was a computer analyst with State Farm Insurance in Bloomington, Ill., from 1990-92 and a State Farm agent in Water Valley from 1992-97 before entering the ministry in. He earned a master of divinity degree in evangelism and church growth from the seminary's Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth in 2001. He also holds master's and bachelor's degrees in business administration from Delta State University in Cleveland. The Logans have three sons: Trey, 12, Tyler, 10, and Wil, 6.



Logan Jr.

Looking back

10 years ago

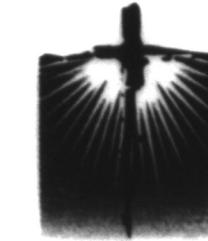
Over 20,000 Mississippi teens and adults gather in the early morning of Sept. 17 for the 7th annual See You at the Pole emphasis, according to Don Lum, youth consultant in the Evangelism Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

20 years ago

A total of 4,201 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ are made through Southern Baptist Centrifuge camps and church recreation conferences during the summer. At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 4,073, or about 16% of the participants, made public decisions.

50 years ago

Nearly 8,000 delegates to the first National Conference of Southern Baptist Men held in Oklahoma City are challenged by keynote speaker Carlyle Marney to "accept the conditions and challenges of a freedom we have not yet got."



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

MS POSITIONS

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CANAAN BAPTIST CHURCH, Columbus, Miss., is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resumes

TEARS IN CHURCH

It was just a normal Sunday morning worship service. There was a great crowd. We had all been greeted, seated, prayed with, prayed for, and now we were standing and singing. The congregation and choir had joined in with the minister of music and praise team singing the words of that moving modern hymn, "You are God alone from before time began, you were on your throne. You are God alone. Right now in the good times and bad, you are on your throne. You are God alone — unchangeable, unshakable, unstoppable that's what you are ..." I did not know one person in the building — not the pastor, staff, a deacon, Sunday School teacher, greeter, or fellow visitor. I knew no one, but suddenly I was impacted by the majesty, meaning, and miraculous impact of this moment in worship where the message and music collided in the worshipper's heart.

It is impossible to describe the number of issues and areas of my own life that were brought before the very presence of the Lord as we sang, "You are God alone. You are on your throne." It was not just me who was hearing, seeing, and feeling. Tears began to come to my eyes as I thought of all of the ways that God had blessed me and the confidence that I can have in Him knowing that He cares about me and that my future is confidently in His hands. As I looked around a couple of rows in front of me there was a lady seemingly about 45



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

with God about the needs in his life. We kept on singing.

Just glancing across the congregation I saw the same thing repeated over and over but tried to refocus my attention on just joining in with the music, the moment, and experiencing the challenge and the encouragement, the comfort and the elation of knowing that we can meet with God who can meet every one of our needs.

I thought about tears in the church and how tears are a God designed part of our very being. Tears have such a wide range of meanings and except for the ones that are flowing down your own cheeks, you may not know why they come or what they mean. For you see, sometimes they are glad tears. Through the years, I have had so many occasions to be at a moment in a place with someone who just burst out crying and with uncontrollable tears said something like, "I am just so happy!" I understand for I have been there.

At other times, tears are sad. Generally, we think that they are sad experiences, but not always. There are times when tears say more than words would ever say as a son or daughter stands at an

open casket and remembers all of the love and care, the tenderness, and sometimes the failings that came from not living up to her role as a son or daughter and mom or dad is now gone. Tears can come from the grief that comes from knowing that someone is gone and life from that point on will be a lonelier road to travel.

Sometimes there are mad tears. I have seen people get so angry about some situation that they were in, or facing, or watching that they could not say anything. They could only cry.

Of course, there are bad tears. Those are the tears that flow when we face the reality of our own sinfulness, and the fact that we have broken the heart of God. We have disappointed our friends, our family, and have miserably let ourselves down. Whether they are glad, sad, mad, or bad tears, they may be used of God to bring us into an encounter with Him that can set life on a different course.

As the worship service continued, there were other songs, prayers, and a wonderful message from God's Word. When the service was over it seemed as though we all went forward refreshed to face life with all of its ups and downs, rivers to be crossed, and hills to be climbed refreshed because we had the privilege of meeting with God. It was as if our tears were washed away and the Son was shining bright.

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Church's baptisms include tailgating celebration

ANDERSON, S.C. (BP)

The idea of tailgating before a baptism celebration might seem rather unusual to some, but at NewSpring Church, it's part of an effort to reach people with the creativity and relevance found in the Bible.

The fast-growing Southern Baptist congregation baptized 562 believers during a celebration staged in its parking lot with more fanfare and excitement than most churchgoers typically expect.

"We invited people to come tailgate before the baptisms like they would before a football game," said Tony Morgan, chief strategic officer at NewSpring in Anderson, S.C.

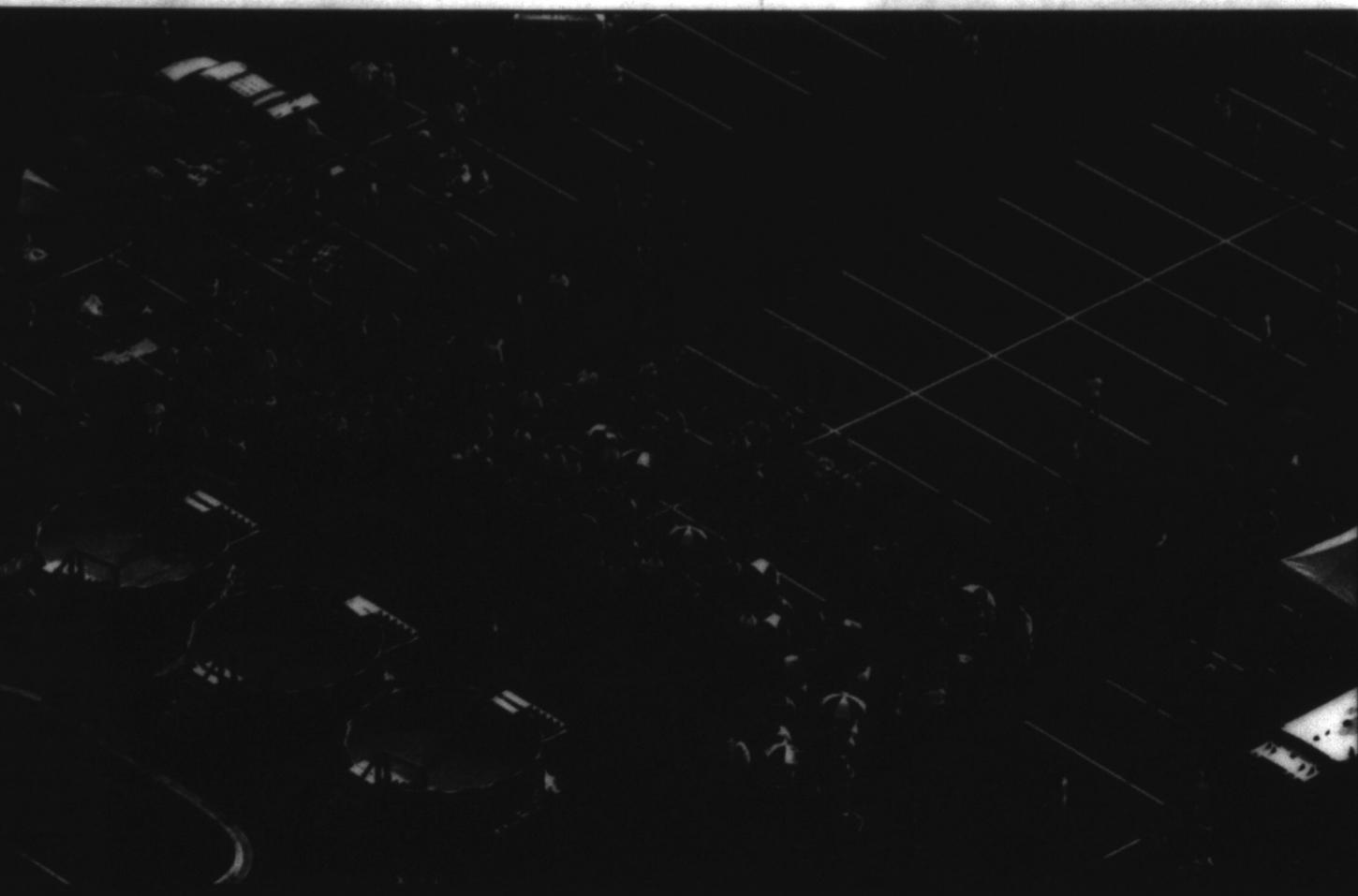
"People brought their RVs and set up tents. There were televisions going with people watching football games before the baptism service started," Morgan told Baptist Press. "People brought grills and they were making food for themselves and sharing with others. It was pretty fun."

The church, which is about 20 minutes from the Clemson University campus, set up three above-ground pools in the parking lot, and two pastors in each pool took about 90 minutes to baptize the 562 people, Morgan said.

Morgan believes it's entirely appropriate to party before a baptism because the ordinance is a celebration.

"It's acknowledging a commitment that someone has made with Christ, and it's something to be celebrated," he said. "Actually, I personally see our event to be more consistent with the purpose of baptism — people making a public statement of a faith commitment that they've made."

The September 8 baptism event was the culmination of a



BAPTISM CELEBRATION — NewSpring Church in Anderson, S.C., issued an invitation to tailgate in the parking lot before a celebration of 562 people being baptized. (BP photo courtesy of NewSpring Church)

five-week series preached by NewSpring pastor Perry Noble titled, "Illuminate," during August in which he compared a life without Christ to a life with Christ.

"Through that series we had around 800 people receive Christ," Morgan said. "So the final Sunday of the series Perry preached a message about baptism. In each of our four services, we baptized someone during the worship part of the service and then Perry taught about that."

NewSpring began as a Bible study for college students in Noble's home in 1998, and soon a core group of people cast a vision for the church plant.

"With a church on practically

every corner, it hardly seemed like Anderson needed yet another church," NewSpring's website says; "however, research showed that nearly forty-eight percent of the people in the county didn't attend church on a regular basis. So this core group had a vision: 'Why not create a church that would adhere to solid, Christian doctrine but would be entirely different from the other churches in the community?'

The group chose to focus its ministry on three main areas: making the church the "most creative place of worship on the planet," doing everything with "110 percent effort, quality and effectiveness," and teaching people how God and the Bible

are relevant to their lives today.

In January 2000, 115 people gathered for NewSpring's first Sunday morning service on the campus of Anderson College, the website says. Six years later, they finished construction of a 2,500-seat auditorium and saw more than 900 people accept Christ and nearly 800 follow in baptism last year alone.

"All I can say is that Perry has committed to making the name of Jesus famous," Morgan said in assessing the rapid growth. "That's the sole focus for his ministry and for the ministry of NewSpring Church, in that everything we do in our worship services, everything we do through our ministry pro-

gramming, everything we try to communicate to our community reflects that focus. I think God is honoring that."

Granted, the sermon titles and some other things the church does can be a little edgy compared to most Southern Baptist churches. But the philosophy of the church's leaders is that creativity is necessary for accomplishing the Great Commission, as noted on the pastor's blog September 12.

"The apostle Paul said in Scripture that Christ must be preached... and NewSpring, you have my promise that HE will always be our focus!" Perry wrote, "BUT you also have my promise that church will never be boring — we do not have a boring God — His bride should not be boring either. The Bible is the most exciting book that has ever been written... and we will present it in its totality, with passion, sincerity and creativity!!"

All age groups are catching on to the ministry style, Morgan said, including a woman who is 101 years old.

"The funny thing is we had tried to seat her in the back of the auditorium thinking she might not prefer the loud music, and she wants to be up front close to the action," he said.

With about 5,000 members but 8,000 in attendance on Sundays, Morgan noted that a lot of people who attend the church's services aren't members. Whether those people are searching or haven't finalized their commitments, he sees promise in the fact that they're gathering at all.

"I think it's a great thing when people in the church can come together and celebrate the transformation that Christ is making in people's lives," Morgan said.

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JUST FOR THE RECORD

1. Missions Organizations, Fredonia Church, New Albany



2. Construction planned, Dorsey Church, Dorsey



3. 125th Anniversary, Shivers Church, Shivers



4. RAs, Williamsville Church, Kosciusko

1. **Fredonia Church, New Albany**, recognized their missions organizations Sept. 5. The children shared their mission projects and recited Bible verses. Shown are the participants.

2. **Dorsey Church, Dorsey**, will construct a 7200 sq. ft. addition to their church. Shown, center, are Gary Powell and Lanier Thompson; back row, Gene Loden, Alfred York, pastor Danny Rushing, and Jerry Guntharp.

3. **Shivers Church, Shivers**, celebrated its 125th anniversary July 15. Shown is Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission president Talmadge Smith presenting a plaque to pastor Wilson E. "Gene" Erwin.

4. **Williamsville Church, Kosciusko**, recognizes its RAs. Shown are Clark Dean, John Cappelli, David Ochoa, Brandon Cochran, Eddie Plunkett, Charlie Plunkett, Ethan Griffin, and Eddie Cappelli.

5. Roy and Dorothy Gelston were honored and presented a plaque by First Church, Lexington, Sept. 9, for their service to the church. Roy Gelston served as Sunday School general secretary for over 40 years, and Dorothy Gelston served as church clerk for over 40 years, and served a number of years as church secretary. Shown are Sammy Massey, Roy Gelston, Dorothy Gelston, and pastor Wes Bonner.

6. **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**, celebrated its 125th anniversary. Shown is Talmadge Smith presenting pastor Randy Garner with a plaque noting the event.

7. **West Heights Church, Pontotoc**, ordained Rob Ray to the ministry Aug. 19. Shown are Ray and his wife Christy.

8. **New Hope Church, Como**, will host Second Chance in concert Sept. 30, 1 p.m. For more information, call (662) 455-4914.

9. **First Church, Morton**, is hosting the Scott County Extravaganza Outreach Ministry Oct. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. which will include games, door prizes, face painting, music, drama, clowns, and other events. Concessions are available for \$25. For more information, call (601) 732-6664.

10. **First Church, Greenwood**, ordained Brad Moreman as deacon Sept. 9. Shown are pastor Joe Pate and Moreman.

5. Gelstons honored, First Church, Lexington



6. 125th Anniversary, Bunker Hill Church, Columbia



7. Ordination, West Heights Church, Pontotoc



10. Deacon Ordination, First Church, Greenwood

JUST FOR THE RECORD

16. **Liberty Hill Church, Pope,** recognized Lewis Snider for 43 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School.



17. Jonathan and Melissa Crosby and son Blake recently returned from Indonesia where they served as foreign missionaries. The couple presented a program at Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association July 29.



18. **Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis,** ordained Wayne Scarbrough as deacon Sept. 9. Shown are pastor Ralph Windle, Scarbrough, and Jessie Morgan Scarbrough.



19. The Timeless Treasures of **Holcomb Church, Holcomb,** honored Rachel Rose Sept. 9 with a party celebrating her 100th birthday. She is the oldest living member of the church, being a member since 1949. Shown are pastor Bob Johnson and Rose.



20. **Star Church, Star,** ordained Gus Bynum, Lee Peagler, Jason Bridges, and Joe Sharpe as deacons Sept. 9. Shown are pastor Vic Bowman, Bynum, Peagler, Bridges, Sharpe, and Tom Edmonson.



21. **Bunker Hill Church, Columbia,** ordained Porter Wilks and Gannon Rogers as deacons Aug. 26. Shown are Sissy Wilks, Wilks, Randy Gardner, Rogers, Judy Robbins and James Robbins.



13. **Smith Honored, First Church, Bellevue, Hattiesburg**

14. **Deacon Ordination, Slayden Church, Slayden**



15. **Jamieson portrays Lackey, Slayden Church, Slayden**

16. **Perfect Attendance, Liberty Hill Church, Pope**

11. **Miller Recognized, Calvary Church, Pascagoula**



12. **Shepard Recognized, Standing Pine Church, Walnut Grove**

11. Chris Carter, pastor, Calvary Church, Pascagoula, recently presented a special award to Min Miller for 54 years of service teaching Sunday School. Shown are Miller and Carter.

12. Standing Pine Church, Walnut Grove, recognized music director Ronnie Shepard for 17 years of service. Shown are Shepard and pastor Jim Burns.

13. First Church, Bellevue, Hattiesburg, will honor pastor Dewey Smith Sept. 30, 10:15 a.m., in recognition of 50 years of service.

14. Slayden Church, Slayden, ordained H.R. "Buzzy" Carpenter, Jr., left, and Randy Brock as deacons Aug. 19. David Bishop, pastor.

15. Onita Jamieson, portraying Margaret Lackey, visited Slayden Church, Slayden, Sept. 2. Ed Deuschle, director, Planting Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, brought the morning message. David Bishop, pastor.



18. **Deacon Ordination, Morgan Chapel Church, Sturgis**



19. **Rose Honored, Holcomb Church, Holcomb**



20. **Deacon Ordinations, Star Church, Star**



21. **Deacon Ordinations, Bunker Hill Church, Columbia**



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JUST FOR THE RECORD

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LNC ESUPCT EBACLN; DKL
LNC PUTA UE UKT FUA
ONBSS OLBRA EUT CJCT.

VOBVBN EUTLM: CVFNL

Clue: F = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Five: Thirty-Four.



22. Children's Choir, Goss Church, Columbia

22. The children's choir of **Goss Church, Columbia**, presented the musical Race to Win Aug. 5. Shown are the participants. Alicia Bass, choir director; Mark McArthur, pastor.

23. The preschool Sunday School classes and Mission Friends of Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel, collected food to be delivered to the local Christian Food Mission. Shown are the participants.

24. Valley Park Church, Valley Park, recognized Addie Mae Holloway for 56 years of perfect attendance in Sunday School. She is shown with Ted Porter, Sunday School director.

25. First Church, Lauderdale, ordained Marlon Lafferty as deacon Aug. 26. Shown are Ryan Culpepper, Lafferty, Ruth Lafferty, and Jimmy Culpepper.

26. Vaiden Church, Vaiden, hosted former youth director Joy McComb as she shared about her mission trip to Nicaragua. She is shown with Harvey and Rose Ray, who recently returned from a two-year mission project in Papua New Guinea.



23. Preschool and Mission Friends, Tuckers Crossing Church, Laurel



24. Perfect Attendance, Valley Park Church, Holloway



26. Missionary McComb visits Vaiden Church, Vaiden



25. Deacon Ordination, FBC Lauderdale

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COLLEGE NEWS

The William Carey University Chorale will perform with the Mississippi Symphony Orchestra Oct. 12 at Thalia Mara Hall in Jackson as part of the Mississippi's William Grant Still, Celebrating an American Master Composer concert. Presented by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Phil Hardin Foundation, and the Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC), the concert is part of the American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius NEA initiative to acquaint Americans with the best of their cultural and artistic legacy. Tickets for the concert are \$15 general admission and \$5 for students with ID and can be purchased at the door or by visiting the website at www.msorchestra.com or by calling (601) 960-1565.



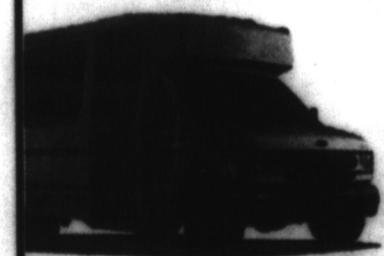
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Special Collections Librarian responsible for the daily operation of the MS Bapt. Hist. Collection & the M.C. Archives. The 12-month position requires the MLS degree from an ALA accredited university. Experience necessary. This position requires effective computer skills, ability to work effectively with a variety of patrons, interest in assisting Baptist churches prepare for anniversary celebrations, and other typical library duties. Competitive salary. If interested in additional information, please contact the search committee at M.C., Phone 601-925-3434 or e-mail mbhc@mc.edu.

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True Love Waits International to move into Africa

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — True Love Waits International officially launched its initiative to expand its abstinence-until-marriage message throughout Africa during a three-day summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, attended by representatives from eight African countries.

The summit's 43 participants were guided through a comprehensive True Love Waits International training manual with follow-up lessons. They also heard from leaders in Uganda and Kenya about successes in how the True Love Waits message has been implemented; most of the work True Love Waits has done on the continent has been in these two countries.

"The participants came with a sense of expectancy that did not diminish throughout the week," said Sharon Pumpelly, who serves as lead consultant for True Love Waits International, a ministry of LifeWay Christian

Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention. Pumpelly and her husband Larry introduced True Love Waits to Uganda in 1994 while serving as missionaries with the International Mission Board.

True Love Waits co-founder Jimmy Hester, one of the speakers at the Aug. 14-17 summit, added, "To illustrate the diversity of the group, there were medical doctors, pastors, denominational leaders, health organization leaders and abstinence leaders."

The common thread that brought the group together was a shared desire to see a movement of God among the youth of their countries through young people committing themselves to God's plan for their sex lives, Hester said.

"Many positive comments were shared that affirmed the summit successfully cast a vision for True Love Waits International," he said.

A highlight of the summit was individual reports from

each country. Leaders shared statistical information about their countries and what is currently taking place regarding sexual abstinence, and in particular True Love Waits.

One leader recounted how his country is reaching military personnel with the True Love Waits challenge. Another told how churches are being planted as a result of True Love Waits presentations and follow-up work. Nearly every leader reported how

True Love Waits has strengthened the ministry of churches.

Earlier this year, True Love Waits International received \$950,000 in funding as part of LifeWay's "A Defining Moment" philanthropic campaign, created to help touch the nations for Jesus Christ. The donations enabled True Love Waits to begin expanding in six African countries and the summit was the first step in that process.

"A Defining Moment has given us resources to be more proactive and intentional in our work in Africa, rather than just responding to requests," Hester said.

Since its introduction in Uganda 13 years ago, True Love Waits has been a catalyst for bringing people together to address the AIDS problem and spread the message of biblical purity to schools, youth groups and communities. In the years that fol-



WORKING TOGETHER — Participants at the True Love Waits International summit in South Africa discuss ways to expand the abstinence-until-marriage initiative in their countries. (BP photo)

lowed, Uganda's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate (the percentage of people living with HIV/AIDS) — which in some areas was above 30% — dropped to the current rate of 6.7% of the country's 25 million people.

True Love Waits has been a part of mission strategy for the International Mission Board for many years. In addition to Uganda and Kenya, True Love Waits is being used in South Africa, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania, Swaziland and Mozambique, with a number of missionaries directly involved in the ministry.

"The majority of those that attended the summit are young African leaders who know the significance of the True Love Waits commitment and how it can affect the future of their countries," Hester said. "When we gave them the True Love Waits manual, their reaction was,

'Wow! This is really special.'" Echoing Hester's sentiments, Tshepo Kgalaeng from Botswana wrote in a follow-up e-mail, "I just want to say a special thank you for inviting me to the summit; [it] was an eye-opener and spiritually reviving. I'm looking forward to working with you, because Botswana is one country that needs the True Love Waits message."

Hester indicated that he and the other True Love Waits International team members have a sense of excitement about what God is going to do next now that the summit has concluded.

"When Richard Ross [now a Southwestern Seminary professor] and I first sketched out the concept for True Love Waits on a napkin, I never dreamed I'd be sitting in South Africa 14 years later," Hester said. "It's amazing to see how great God is and the magnitude of His plan."

HOMECOMING & REVIVALS

Antioch Church, Neshoba County: Homecoming, Sept. 30; services, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish meal, followed by afternoon service, 1:30 p.m.; Ray Spence and Rusty Walton, speakers; Kevin Thompson and local talent, music.

Carey Chapel Church, Red Banks: Homecoming and harvest festival, Oct. 7; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by dinner on the grounds and games and singing, 1 p.m.; Carl Teel, speaker.

Center Terrace Church, Canton: Revival, Oct. 14-17; Sun., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Allen Stevens, speaker; Judy Davis, music; Danny Berry, pastor.

Good Hope Church, Lena: Harvest Day, Oct. 28; services, 11 a.m., followed by lunch; Wayne McGee, speaker; Dean Cook, pastor.

Highland Church, Crystal Springs: Revival, Sept. 30-Oct. 3; Sun., 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish luncheon and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Kenny Digby, speaker; Perry White, music.

Holly Springs Church, Foxworth: Homecoming, Oct. 14; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch and afternoon singing; Robert Sones, speaker; Ron Jordan, pastor.

Mt. Pisgah Church, Enid: Homecoming, Oct. 14; musical guests, the Holcomb Sisters, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by fellowship dinner; P.J. Weeks, speaker; Marty Evans Jr., pastor.

Phalti Church, Pachuta: Homecoming, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m.; Mickey Walls, speaker; Freddy Odom, pastor.

Tillatoba Church, Tillatoba: Homecoming, Nov. 30; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; fellowship, 10:30 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by potluck dinner; Mike Ramage, speaker; Rickey Harris, pastor.

Union Church, Roxie: Homecoming and Revival, Oct. 7-9; Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m., followed by dinner and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Tue., 7 p.m.; Lee Shipp, speaker; Andy McDaniel, pastor.

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GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

SEPT. 11-24, 2007

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E. L. Bennett
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Mr. Burnett Brock
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Hardin
Capt. Hugh W. Olds Jr.
Emily Henderson
Mrs. Sally E. Stewart
Mr. Joe Hodges
Jerusalem Baptist Church
Mr. Robert Hudgins
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Mrs. Bettye Johnson

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Mrs. Barbara Ann Denton
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Faith SSC, Emmanuel BC-Grenada
The Body Fitness Group
Rev. & Mrs. J. W. Owen, Jr.
Joel & Shirley Hale
Bea & Dick Reynolds
Judy & Dave Lacy

MEMORIALS

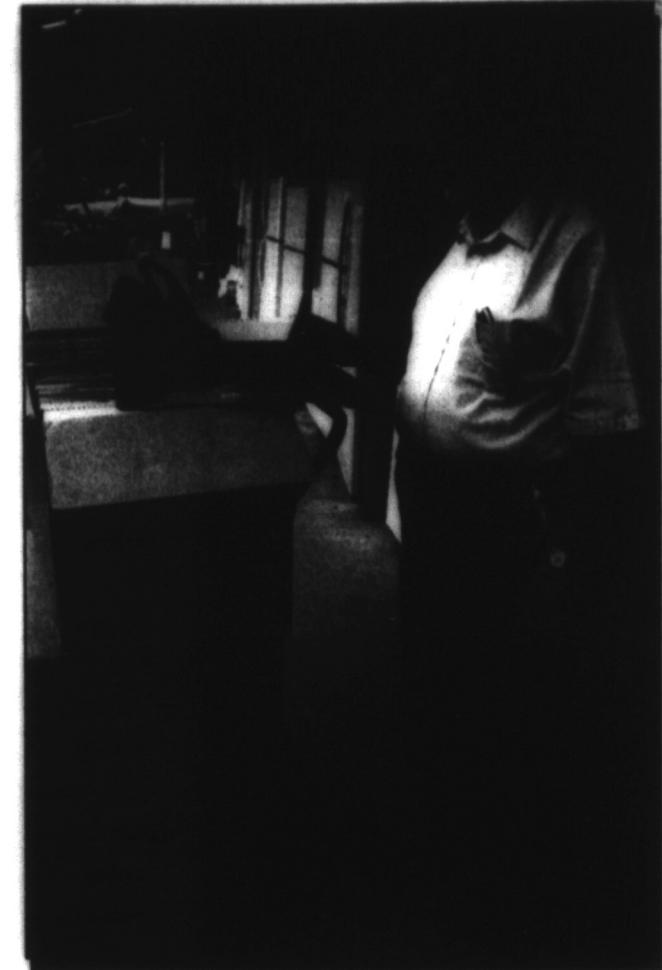
Mr. Steve Acton
Ms. Nancy F. Patrick
Bill Adams (Papa)



The Baptist Children's Village recently served as host for the Southern Baptist Child Care Development and Communication Conference. This is an annual conference that provides continuing education and networking among the Southern Baptist Child Care Agencies. The states represented were: Alabama, Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee & South Carolina.

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wiggs & Amanda
Rev. Ira Alley
Steve Bryant Family
Karen Bryant
Chet Siak Family
Tommy Watts Family
Mrs. Nycole Autry
Mrs. Juanita M. Hight
Anson Abbe Aven
Jimmy & Shirley Berry
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Shuqualak Baptist Church
Don Neal Berry
Jimmy & Shirley Berry
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Phileene & Stuart Allen
Jim M. Richy
Mr. James C. Peay
Strat Roushaw
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Potter



Bob Goolsby, Perry County Baptist Association AMD, delivered 79 pairs of new shoes to The Baptist Children's Village. The shoes were a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy James of The Shoe Tree in Waynesboro, Mississippi.

Mr. & Mrs. Perry E. Atherton
Charles E. Yarbrough
Mr. & Mrs. Art Lamkin

Mrs. Varnetta Yates
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Callender Jr.

Current Needs List:

Sponsors:

2 - \$100 sponsors for choir dresses

1 - \$150 for a student to participate in a UN Council

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scrubbing bubbles
lysol



The Baptist Children's Village was given a great big surprise recently when The Sweet Potato Shed in Belzoni, Mississippi donated 2,000 lbs of sweet potatoes to the ministry. Those who made the delivery are pictured (L-R) Tucker Walsh, Reuben Hodnett and Dewitt Hodnett.

IMB retirees gather to celebrate 26,000 years of service

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — When you've served for more than 26,000 years, you deserve to celebrate.

As part of the International Mission Board (IMB) Year of Emeriti observance, nearly 1,000 retired missionaries united for the first time at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina, the very location where many of them first heard God's call to missions.

The retirees who attended comprise two-thirds of the approximately 1,400 living emeriti Southern Baptist missionaries and served a cumulative total of more than 26,000 years on mission fields around the world, according to IMB estimates.

"You may feel that old, but you really aren't," IMB President Jerry Rankin joked as he paid tribute to the retirees at the Sept. 10-13 event. "As I look at you and realize what has gone before, how grateful we are that it didn't start with us youngsters. You represent a biblical model of following God as Abraham did. You represent a passion to worship God as Isaiah did, to say to Him, 'Here am I, Lord, send me.'

"You had the vision of Paul, who was called to regions beyond and to do whatever it takes to get the Gospel to the ends of the earth, and long before we formulated a mission vision that we would lead all Southern Baptists to be on mission with God, you were fulfilling that vision."

Some of the retirees are moving slower these days. Some use canes, walkers, or hearing aids, but their passion for missions burns as bright as ever.

Jim Lochridge, 84, was the first to arrive for an evening celebration service at Ridgecrest's Spilman Auditorium. He sat middle center, sporting a royal blue island shirt and expectantly tapping a shiny bamboo cane.

"You come early, you get the best seat," he said, cracking a grin. His wife Mary soon joined him, wearing a matching shirt and smile.

"We're on our 61st honeymoon," Lochridge declared, referring to their recent wedding anniversary.

Beginning in 1958, the Lochridges worked for 27 years in the Philippines, where he was president of the Southern Baptist College in M'lang. It wasn't his first time in the region, however. He saw action as a U.S. Marine in some of the bloodiest fighting in the Pacific during World War II.

Like many members of the great postwar generation of missionaries, he returned to Asia bearing not a gun but the Good News of Christ. "I saw the spiritual poverty in the eyes of those people, and I had to go



HOME FROM FIELD — Retiring missionaries Joe and Norma Powell (left) are recognized for 30 years of service in Venezuela by International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin and his wife Bobbyle, who are both native Mississippians and graduates of Baptist-affiliated Mississippi college in Clinton. The Powells and 58 other new retirees joined nearly 1,000 emeriti Southern Baptist missionaries who gathered at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina Sept. 10-13. (BP photo by Bill Bangham)

back," he recounted.

The Lochridges still lead Bible camps for boys and girls in their native North Carolina and other states, and some of their young campers have become missionaries. They also still tell people about Jesus.

"I evangelize anytime," he said.

Flunked retirement'

The Lochridges' ongoing commitment to missions is shared by many of the retirees who gathered at Ridgecrest. Mission statesman Winston Crawley, 87, first came to Ridgecrest at age 7 with his preacher father. He went to China as a missionary in 1947 and later oversaw the Foreign (now International) Mission Board's overseas operations during decades of expansion to new fields worldwide.

He retired in 1987 but continues to teach missions both in the United States and abroad. "I flunked retirement," Crawley quipped. "I became a wandering seminary teacher."

Next year he plans to teach in Taiwan, he said, "Lord willing."

The emeriti missionaries, combined with the current IMB mission force of 5,234, account for more than a third of all the Southern Baptist missionaries who have served abroad during the board's 162-year history, according to Rankin.

Five served 45 years on their mission fields. Thirty-eight served 40 or more years.

Merrel Callaway, 91, was appointed in 1942. He served in Morocco and Yemen, he told fellow retirees, adding emphatically,

"It all was a joy!" Eleven others present also were appointed during the '40s.

Many of the missionaries started Baptist work in their countries of service. Many saw their children and grandchildren follow them into mission work. Hundreds had to evacuate their fields or take cover during wars, coups, and revolutions.

Harold Hurst, who launched Southern Baptist work in Honduras half a century ago, remembers three revolutions in one year — including one on his birthday.

"The kids were asking, 'Dad, are all those firecrackers outside for your birthday?'" he recalled. It was gunfire. Hurst still leads volunteer teams to Honduras several times a year as his health permits.

Living legends

If the cliché "living legends" ever applied to a group of people, it applied to this group, which included:

• Carl Hunker, 91, a China missionary who left the mainland one step ahead of the conquering communists. He went on to lead the Taiwan Baptist Theological Seminary for many years as president and dean.

"My life was evangelism, pasturing, and teaching," he said. It still is. "How much longer? That's in the Lord's hands."

• Jim and Betty McKinley and Tom and Gloria Thurman, who braved civil war, devastating floods, and famine to share the love of Christ with the people of Bangladesh.

• Sam and Ginny Cannata, medical missionaries who endured false arrest, life under communism, and several wars to make disciples during 35 years in East Africa.

• David and Max King, who pioneered seminary education for students throughout the Middle East during decades of service in war-ravaged Lebanon.

• Jurhee Philpot, who returned to serve in Mexico and Costa Rica after her husband Jim was murdered in Mexico in 1985.

• J.O. and Mabelee Terry, missionaries to the Philippines and Singapore, who helped develop the Bible storying methods now used to evangelize people groups around the world.

• Catherine Walker, 34 years in China and Indonesia, who extended her impact globally after retirement as the first director of the IMB international prayer strategy office in the 1980s.

Trading stories

The retirees attended conference sessions on current IMB mission strategies as well as workshops and exhibits highlighting such topics as successful aging, navigating retirement, short-term overseas opportunities, and mobilizing local churches for missions — but mostly they visited with each other, hugged old friends, and traded mission stories.

They also welcomed 60 newly retired missionaries into their fraternity. At a special service September 11 hon-

oring the new emeritus group, IMB president Rankin said their ministry will continue.

For missionaries, the word "retirement" is really a misnomer, Rankin said.

"Your call is irrevocable. You will continue to find avenues of service as you mobilize others in our churches. Many of you will be returning to the fields. You can't turn loose of the peoples and the places where you've invested your lives for many years," he said. "They're too much a part of your heart, and your heart is still there."

Newest retirees

The new retirees included Bill and Susan Smith, the first Southern Baptist missionaries to serve in the revolutionary role of strategy coordinator — a mission worker who mobilizes all the resources of the Christian world to bring the Gospel to an entire people group.

Also included were 15 missionaries who worked in Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa as the modern plague of AIDS swept the region. They brought help and hope to thousands of Africans nearly suffocated by hopelessness.

"During the early '80s, AIDS swept over the country," said Linda Rice, who served in Uganda with her husband, Jim, for 31 years. "It was a rich opportunity for witness. Christ's Gospel transformed lives."

"Those once gripped by fear of the disease became desperate to make every minute count in bold witness and exuberant worship. My own faith grew as I walked with them."

The new retirees and their older mentors also rubbed shoulders with 48 new missionaries appointed at Ridgecrest Sept. 12 by IMB trustees.

"We see it as being a link in the chain," said one new missionary headed to work among an unreached Muslim people group in Africa. "They've gone before us, and they're such an inspiration that we can do this too. It's like the great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 11. Man, these saints have done it."

"The Kingdom is going to have a lot of people because of these folks, and when they say they're gonna pray for you, they're gonna pray!"

How did the older saints advise the new workers to relate to the people they will serve?

"Just love them," urged Nettie Gammie, who served with her late husband, Al, in South Korea and the Philippines for 38 years, "and stay in touch with Jesus."